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Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Santiago **Wins** (Uruguay)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2001, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th, 5th and 28th meetings, on 8 and 9 October and 19 November 2001. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/56/SR.4, 5 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2000;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit (A/56/135);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the work programme of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2001 and the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond (A/56/84);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on experience with the follow-up system on Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations (A/56/356).

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/56/34 and Corr.1).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5

4. At the 28th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Croatia and coordinator of the informal consultations on the item introduced, on behalf of the Chairman, a draft resolution entitled "Joint Inspection Unit" (A/C.5/56/L.5).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/56/L.5 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Joint Inspection Unit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, hereafter referred to as the Unit, in particular resolutions 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999 and 55/230 of 23 December 2000,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Unit for 2000;[2]

2. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the programme of work of the Unit for 2001 and the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond,[3] as well as the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Unit on experience with the follow-up system on Joint Inspection Unit reports and recommendations;[4]

3. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Unit;[5]

4. *Takes note in particular* that, as noted in the preliminary listing of potential reports for 2002 and beyond and reaffirmed by the Chairman of the Unit, the preliminary listing is of a tentative nature and does not necessarily imply that the Unit is committed to taking up these subjects;

5. *Invites* the Unit to improve the presentation of the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond by providing information on the source, including legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year;

6. *Requests* the executive heads of participating organizations to fully observe the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11, subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the statute of the Unit;

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[2] Ibid.
[3] A/56/84.
[4] A/56/356.
[5] A/56/135.

7. *Requests* the Unit to consider including in its reports, where possible, the comments of the participating organizations on its findings and recommendations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

8. *Stresses* the need for the Unit to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations;

9. *Stresses also* that the compliance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/16 and contained in annex I to the Unit's annual report for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997,[6] is a responsibility of the Unit as a whole, and, in this regard, requests the Unit to fully exercise its collective wisdom in accordance with article 11, paragraph 2, of the statute;

10. *Requests* the Chairman of the Unit, in accordance with article 18 of the statute, to ensure compliance by the Unit with the provisions of its statute as well as the internal standards, guidelines and procedures as approved by the Unit;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the other participating organizations to ensure that the Unit is provided with the information requested by it in due time, in accordance with article 6.2 of the statute;

12. *Welcomes* the initial steps taken by the Unit with other external and internal oversight bodies of the United Nations system to develop interaction and intensify relations with a view to achieving better coordination among them with respect, in particular, to the oversight coverage and sharing of best practices, thus enhancing the impact of oversight activities as a whole and endeavouring to avoid duplication, and requests the Unit to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session in the context of its report for 2001;

13. *Requests* the executive heads of those participating organizations that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to facilitate the consideration of and action on the system of follow-up to the reports of the Unit,[6] and invites the legislative organs concerned to consider and act upon it;

14. *Requests* the Unit to submit, as part of its annual report, additional comments and recommendations on its experience with the follow-up system on reports of the Unit, focusing in particular on legislative actions and implementation of the approved recommendations, to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, including measures it has taken to achieve a punctual and systematic follow-up of its recommendations as approved by the legislative organs of participating organizations;

15. *Decides* to review the current state of coordination and cooperation among the United Nations oversight bodies with a view to ensuring greater synergy and mutual complementarity in their joint efforts to improve the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations;

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[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/52/34), annex I.

16. *Requests* that the Unit place more emphasis on the evaluation aspects of its work, in accordance with recommendation 63 contained in the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations,[7] as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986;

17. *Underlines* that the evaluation function is envisaged in the statute of the Unit, and stresses the need for the Unit to pay special attention to the preparation of more evaluation-oriented reports;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the executive heads of the other participating organizations for their attention.

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[7] Ibid., *Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49* (A/41/49).